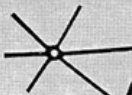


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New recruits not deterred by likelihood of war in Iraq

By Casey Krautkramer

Most of the handful of Valders High School seniors who have enlisted in the U.S. Army aren't too concerned about a probable war with Iraq, and say they are proud of the opportunity to serve their country.

Five seniors are enlisted in the Army and one is expected to join soon: Army Staff Sgt. Bryce Nusbaum, a recruiter at the U.S. Army Recruiting Station in Manitowoc, is pleased with the number from Valders who have enlisted.

He said he hasn't seen much fluctuation in recruiting numbers since talk surfaced about a possible war with Iraq.

Nusbaum said the office's recruiting numbers have actually increased, possibly due to Manitowoc County's high unemployment rate or because his office now has two recruiters.

He cited the three main reasons people enlist in the Army: job security; a desire to learn a trade they can use when they get out of the Army; and duty to their country.

VHS senior Jordan Downey of rural Reedsville has wanted to go into the military ever since he was a child. He enlisted at the beginning of January and reports to basic training on Sept. 2 at Fort Jackson, S.C.

He wants to repair Blackhawk helicopters.

"Always as a kid I looked up to our servicemen that they are protecting our free-



Call to Duty

At least six Valders High School seniors have plans to join the Army soon after graduation, with five already enlisted. Last week, they posed with a Humvee military vehicle that visited the school. From left are Michael Voss, Erik Christman, John Barton, Army recruiter Staff Sgt. Bryce Nusbaum, Nic Franz, Dan Franz and Jordan Downey.

—Journal Photo

dom," he said.

Downey's grandfathers and a pair of uncles were in the military. He said a war in Iraq will probably be over before he starts serving, but if not, he'd need to do what's necessary.

"I like to think that I'm protecting the freedom of my family and friends and everyone else in the country," he said.

John Barton of rural Manitowoc isn't too keen about the thought of war.

"It kind of makes me nervous, because I really don't want to go over there," he said.

Barton enlisted last October and will report to basic training on Aug. 6 at Fort

Benning, Ga. He also will partake in airborne training, and will serve in the infantry.

Like many others, he felt that he needed to leave the Valders area and explore other parts of the world, and is proud to serve his country.

The thought of war actually heightened Michael Voss' interest in the Army.

"I feel like if I'm in the Army, I just don't want to be there, I want to make a difference," he said.

Voss, of rural Valders, had relatives in the military. His late grandfather served in the Army during World War II, and his

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